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The Best Town

TO LIVE IN,

S H A R O N

MASSACHUSETTS,

THE HEALTHIEST TOWN

» IN THE STATE. «

W. B. WICKES.



The Best Town

TO LIVE IN:

SHARON,

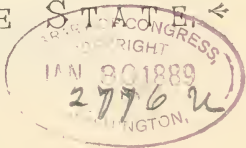
MASSACHUSETTS,

Books

THE HEALTHIEST TOWN

» IN THE STATE «

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HOW TO REACH SHARON.

Sharon is seventeen miles from Boston and twenty-five from Providence, on the Providence Division of the Old Colony Railroad. There are eleven trains from Boston each week day, including a theatre train, and two trains out on Sunday. Time of trains from Boston, thirty to forty minutes. This road is one of the oldest, best equipped and most carefully managed roads in the country. It crosses no drawbridge, the trains are almost invariably on time and have plenty of cars, so each passenger can have a seat. It is double tracked with steel rails its entire length.

Its Boston station on Columbus Avenue and Park Square is convenient and comfortable, and architecturally, the most beautiful in the United States. It is said by those who have travelled extensively, to be unequalled in the world, when convenience, comfort, looks and surroundings are taken into account. Single fares from Boston to Sharon, forty cents; five tickets, one dollar and seventy-five cents, or thirty-five cents each. Season tickets for three months, twenty-three dollars, or about fourteen cents a trip. Single fare from Sharon to Providence, sixty cents. One thousand-mile tickets, good on any portion of the Old Colony system, \$20.00. Passengers from New York can reach Sharon by the all rail Shore line, or by the Providence

Steamboat line. To drive from Boston to Sharon take Brush Hill turnpike and come via Canton. From Jamaica Plain come via Dedham and Norwood. From New Bedford, Taunton and Fall River via Easton Furnace, or come by rail via Mansfield.

Sharon has three mails a day to and from Boston, and two to and from Providence. The Western Union Telegraph Company have an office in the railroad station, and the New England telephone wires enable us to talk with all the country.

Communication can be had direct with my residence in Sharon, from any telephone in Boston or any of the surrounding towns.

PROVIDENCE DIVISION OLD COLONY RAILROAD.

Boston Station, Columbus Avenue and Park Square. This table is liable to changes.

Trains leave Sharon for Boston, week days, 7.03, 7.44, 8.05, 9.24, 11.53, A. M.; 2.51, 5.20, 7.40, 11.00, P. M. Sundays, 9.09, A. M.; 2.17, 5.14, P. M.

Due in Boston, week days, 7.40, 8.25, 8.45, 10.00, A. M.; 12.30, 3.20, 5.58, 8.20, 11.35 P. M.; Sundays; 9.45, A. M.; 2.50, 5.45, P. M.

Leave Boston for Sharon, week days, 6.35, 8.00, 8.20, 9.25, 10.30, A. M.; 2.00, 4.15, 5.30, 5.50, 8.30, 11.05, P. M.

Sundays, 9.00, A. M.; 4.30, P. M.

Due in Sharon, week days, 7.24, 8.33,

9.02, 9.59, 11.16, A. M.; 2.31, 4.47, 6.07, 6.26, 9.00, 11.30, P. M.; Sundays, 9.00, 9.32, A. M.; 5.14, P. M.

DESCRIPTION.

SHARON, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, offers great inducements to the farmer, the poultry keeper, the gardener, the manufacturer and the invalid, as also to those seeking a quiet, pleasant home. Its attractions as a suburban residence, especially to those doing business in Boston, Providence and neighboring towns and cities, are unequalled by any other place within fifty miles of Boston.

This book is intended to make Sharon better known and appreciated, and not as a catalogue or advertisement of the property that is for sale or to let here. I have a large number of farms for sale, varying in price from \$600 to \$12,000, also houses furnished and unfurnished for sale and to let, and various kinds of business for sale. As this work is only issued once or twice a year, and such property is constantly changing hands, it is obviously impossible to catalogue a correct list in this book. Write me your wants and I will cheerfully inform you what there is in the market here.

PURE AIR, PERFECT DRAINAGE.

Sharon is the most elevated town in eastern Massachusetts, and from its situation and the nature of the soil the natural drainage is almost perfect. It is at the summit of the watershed of three

rivers, and it is a singular fact that though a very large town in extent, yet not one drop of water runs into it from any other town, but water runs out of Sharon into each of the seven adjoining towns. Thus it will be seen that the air and the water of Sharon can never be polluted by the drainage of any other town.

The town is from two hundred to five hundred and thirty feet above sea level. It is sheltered on the east by the Blue Hills of Milton. The soil is grayelly and contains iron and there is a great deal of pine wood growing in the town. All of these things with the perfect drainage, tend to make the air of Sharon pure and healthy; but in addition to all this, some, as yet undiscovered law, causes a large amount of ozone to always exist in the air here, making it at all times soft, balmy and extremely agreeable. Even the much and justly abused east wind is deprived of its harshness here and is not disagreeable.

In 1871 the *Boston Traveller* said: "In a work on local causes of Consumption by Dr. Bowditch, published in 1852, he speaks of Sharon as likely to be free from lung diseases. "The correctness of his opinion is now shown by the official records, from which it appears that one-fourth of all who have died in the town in the last five years were over eighty years of age, and more have died from old age than from consumption."

"In the first four months of this year one-half the deaths in the town were from

old age, and were of persons over eighty-seven. It should be added that Sharon is a growing town, with twenty per cent. of its inhabitants between five and twenty years of age."

More than fifty years ago, when the Boston & Providence Railroad was being built, Maj. McNeil, who was then the most eminent civil engineer in this country, spent some time in Sharon. He published an article calling attention to the remarkably pure air of Sharon, but at that time the influence of climate on health had not received attention, and the matter was forgotten until twenty years later, when the late A. D. Bacon, M. D., of Sharon, called the attention of other physicians to the subject.

Dr. Bacon said: "I have never seen contagious or infectious diseases become epidemic here. I have had cases of small pox, diphtheria and scarlet fever in their most virulent forms among my patients, under circumstances where we should suppose they would spread fearfully, but those most exposed did not take the disease." He also said: "All diseases seem to yield more readily to medical treatment here than in any other locality with which I am acquainted."

Careful tests made under the direction of a scientific man, have shown more ozone in the air of Sharon than in any other place where tests have been made east of the Rocky Mountains.

Ozone exists here in such quantities as to destroy all disease germs in the atmosphere, so that no infectious or con-

tagious disease ever has become epidemic here, and probably none ever will. The *New York Medical Tribune* says: "Air loaded with putrid or miasmatic exhalations is immediately purified by contact with ozonized air, and again a development of such exhalations cannot well take place in the presence of ozone. The action of ozone on such impure air is extremely powerful. According to Schœnbein, an atmosphere containing only 1-3,240,000 of ozone is capable of destroying all noxious matter contained in an equal volume of miasmatic air. Where or whenever there is a deficiency of this quantity of ozone, there will occur zymotic and contagious diseases, such as typhoid, scarlatina, measles, small pox, miasmatic fevers, yellow fever, etc., as well as all sorts of skin diseases."

WATER.

The Sharon Water Company supplies the town with an abundance of pure water, taken from an immense spring near the head waters of the Neponset, the Charles and the Taunton rivers. The spring, from its great elevation, is in no danger of ever being contaminated, and there is sufficient water for fifty thousand people.

This water is raised by steam power to a standpipe, from which it is distributed under sufficient head, to not only enter the highest rooms in the village, but also to extinguish fires, the town being supplied with well equipped and well man-

aged hose companies and a hook and ladder company.

SHARON AS A HEALTH RESORT.

HAY FEVER, CONSUMPTION AND ROSE COLD CURED.

The pure air of Sharon has already been spoken of. It is of such a peculiar nature that invalids feel its curative effects at once, and I most earnestly advise the sick and the convalescent to give it a trial. I can give the addresses of people who have been cured by a residence in Sharon, of what was pronounced by the best doctors to be the last stages of consumption, and can assure everyone afflicted with lung trouble that they will be sure to find relief here, if they are not fully cured.

There have been many cases of Hay Fever and Rose Cold cured here. The air of Sharon has been found beneficial for very young children and the several charitable institutions in Boston, that have charge of babies, send many of their wards here to board. Though these waifs are usually orphans who have inherited diseases from one or both of their parents, and are necessarily while here fed from a bottle, yet with Sharon air and Sharon milk, the great majority of them live and thrive.

Physicians in Boston and in towns nearer Sharon, having seen the effects of Sharon air on these babies, are beginning to also send the weakly children of their wealthy patrons here to board.

The best physicians all over New Eng-

land and New York have learned the beneficial effects of Sharon air, and send their chronic and convalescent patients to me, to get them boarded, and though this part of my business is of no benefit to me I am always happy to aid such people to get places suited to their requirements and their purses, and from my long and varied experience I am often able to make valuable suggestions on the subject.

No person who is sick should go to any far off land in search of health and rest, until they have given Sharon a trial, since here one is not necessarily deprived of any comfort, luxury, or medical attendance, that can be obtained in any city in our land. Remember, the air of Sharon is entirely different from that of any other town in the vicinity. Invalids will almost always feel its beneficial effects as soon as they arrive here, and the trouble and cost of giving it a trial are merely nominal.

I can give the addresses of doctors of all schools in Boston, New York, Newport, Fall River, New Bedford, and many other places, who have had patients sick with most of the diseases that flesh is heir to, who have derived benefit from a residence here, but reference to them is hardly necessary, since the best of the medical profession throughout the country are enthusiastic in their praises of Sharon air. But many times they find it hard to convince their patients that so simple and easy a change as a journey to Sharon will effect their cure.

Said one of Boston's best physicians not

long ago: "If I could make my wealthy patients believe in Sharon air as I do, I could fill every house in your little town, but they think they ought to go way off somewhere." Again we say to all invalids, give Sharon air a trial. It won't cost much and may and probably will benefit you, as it has hundreds of others.

Owners of fancy animals have found that the air of Sharon is as beneficial to beast as to man, and send their valuable dogs and horses here to board. There are several establishments devoted to the care of dogs. In 1872, when almost every horse throughout the land was sick with the epizootic, our horses in Sharon escaped though used every day, thus showing that the ozone in the air here does kill disease germs. In one case at that time, a horse driven into town by a pedler, died of the disease, while an expressman's horse in the next stall did not take it, though no special precautions were used to prevent it.

TAXES AND TOWN AFFAIRS.

Those who would reside where the public affairs are carefully managed and the public money judiciously spent, and would *dodge* those towns and cities where recklessness and extravagance prevail, will find in Sharon a desirable home.

The voters of Sharon are liberal in making appropriations for all objects that are supported by town taxes, but so carefully and judiciously is the money expended that the tax is kept low on a low valuation. Politics never enter into town af-

fairs, the best man being chosen to office without regard to political parties. This town was the first one in the state to supply free text books to scholars. It supports a High School, though not obliged by law to do so, and the schools are all kept forty weeks in a year. The schools are partly supported by the income of an invested fund, which was given for the purpose many years ago. The town debt is small and being rapidly diminished. The schoolhouses are ample for the needs of the town and in good repair. There is a very good Town Hall, good fire apparatus well housed, and the few town's poor are well cared for on a large farm. The appropriations recommended by the different boards of town officers, are generally voted without a dissenting voice. Yet with all this liberality on the part of the town, the tax rate averages only ten dollars on one thousand dollars, and that, as has been said, on a low valuation.

There is a reasonable hope that even this low tax rate will soon be considerably reduced. The valuation of the town is but little more than one million dollars. Should a few rich people gain a residence here, as they talk of doing, the valuation of Sharon would be more than doubled, and the tax rate be reduced in the same proportion.

The following extract from the *Sharon Advocate* will serve to show what manner of a town Sharon is :

"This town has neither the manufactories nor the wealth of most of the adjoining towns, but in the moral and social

standing of its people, and its benevolence and public spirit, it will compare favorably with other towns. When a law was passed permitting towns to furnish text books free to schools, it was just like Sharon to be the first town in the state to adopt the plan. It was just like Sharon to support a High School, though not compelled by law to do so. For thirty years it has been just like Sharon to vote all the school money the school committee asked for, and these votes are generally passed unanimously. In other towns and cities their appropriations are usually higgled over and cut down. For thirty years it has been just like Sharon to vote without question almost every cent of money that has been asked for, for every reasonable purpose, and it has been just like Sharon to spend that money so judiciously that we take good care of our poor, have good roads and as low taxes as any town in the state. It is just like Sharon to have a fine town hall at a moderate cost; a good Public Library; to have its lake well stocked with fish; to have the telephone and telegraph, and to have railroad accommodations unsurpassed by any town of its size within a like distance of Boston. More than fifty years ago, a few citizens of Sharon supplied themselves with pure water from Sharon Springs, by forcing it up to an elevation of one hundred feet, which was something they had never seen accomplished, and which wise men told them could never be done. This was just like Sharon, and unlike any town in the vi-

cinity, and now, when the old well is inadequate, it is just like Sharon to be unanimously a liberal sum to supply the whole village with pure water. We might mention many other commendable things in which Sharon is unlike other towns, if our space would permit."

STORES AND MARKETS.

Sharon being a farming town with milk farms, market gardens and poultry yards, fresh and nice vegetables, poultry, milk and eggs are always to be had. Physicians say that milk from cows kept in Sharon is healthier than that from cows kept in less healthy towns. This will not seem unreasonable to those who know how sensitive the nursing infant is to the health of the woman who gives it sustenance. The stores and markets of Sharon supply meats, groceries and fruits, equal in quality to the best sold in Boston, and the vast woodlands of Sharon supply an abundance of that fuel to those who would enjoy the healthy luxury of an open wood fire.

SOCIETY.

Though a very rural town, Sharon is so closely connected with Boston and Canton as not to be isolated or lonesome, even in winter. The Masons, Odd Fellows and Grand Army members meet with lodges in Canton, which is only three miles off. In fact, the people of the two towns are intimately and pleasantly connected in all the relations of life. Social-

ly, Sharon is like most well ordered New England villages, somewhat enlivened, however, by the presence of families who have come from neighboring towns and cities, to find pleasant, healthy homes here. Four churches furnish religious instruction. There is a good Public Library, free to all. The Town Hall is used for lectures, concerts, entertainments, and assemblies, and a late train from Boston every night, summer and winter, gives an opportunity to attend lectures, concerts and theatres, in that city. The town always votes no license, and no rum shops or disreputable houses are allowed.

New comers to the town are sure of a cordial welcome from those already here. It is characteristic of Sharon people to like to see their neighbors have a pleasant and enjoyable time.

SCENERY, WALKS AND DRIVES.

The scenery, walks and drives of Sharon are unsurpassed, and we think unequalled in any other town in eastern Massachusetts. They cannot be adequately described, but must be seen to be appreciated. Usually where the scenery is wild the roads are poor, if not absolutely unsafe. It is not so here. The roads are good in all parts of the town.

In the following drives you are supposed to start from the post-office: Every one will wish to drive around Massapoag pond; from the post-office and back it is six miles. Another drive you must take to see Sharon is to Moose Hill. The nearest town road is the one past the depot,

but it is very hilly. There is a very romantic road to Moose Hill, but it is not a town way. It is through the yard at Sharon station and across the "old dam." It is beautifully wooded, nicely shaded and not very rough. To return by easier grades, come down the "Moose Hill road" to Main street. From the summit of this hill may be seen the residences of one-quarter of all the inhabitants of Massachusetts. The following interesting sketch of what may be seen from Moose Hill, was prepared for me by E. G. Chamberlain, Esq., of Auburndale, Mass., who is a member of the Appalachian Club:

"Moose Hill is 530 feet above sea level. The tower affords an additional elevation of 20 feet. The tower is square, the sides facing precisely to the four cardinal points. Let us take the views in order from left to right. All elevations are reckoned from sea level and all bearings from the *true meridian*.

"Due north is West Dedham Unitarian church, six miles distant, quite conspicuous on a hill. A little to the right is Arlington Heights, twenty miles, and under it the Theological Seminary on Institution Hill in Newton. More to the right is Norwood village, five miles, and Dedham with its court house dome, nine miles. About N. N. E. is Boston, the State House dome bearing N. $25^{\circ} 27'$ E., 18 miles. Just at its left is the white tower of Roxbury standpipe, and between and beyond them is Bunker Hill Monument. A trifle to the right is the large village of Hyde Park, ten miles. N. E. is

the Blue Hill range, Great Blue at the left being eight miles distant and 635 feet high. A little left of it we may get a glimpse of tide water near Winthrop, while nearer we look down on the meadows of Neponset River. Next to Great Blue is Hancock Hill, then Hillside Street Gap, Bugbee Hill and the peak of Chickataubut, 518 feet high, under whose left flank is Bear Hill, hardly separable. In line with Chickataubut is Canton Corner church, five and one-half miles. A little to the right is Canton Village, four miles, and nearly over its left hand steeple is Strawberry Hill, twenty-one miles, crowned by a standpipe. To the left of this and nearer, is the tower on Penn's Hill (in Braintree?). To the right of the right hand of Canton steeple is the triple-towered Atlantic House at Nantasket, twenty-one miles. Between Strawberry Hill and the Atlantic House may be seen Massachusetts Bay, the sea horizon line being 30 1-2 miles distant. A little to the right, nine miles off, are the three tall spires of Randolph, about three degrees apart, the left hand one bearing E. N. E. Due E. is Sharon, two miles, and over it the large village of Stoughton, six miles. Considerably to the right, ten miles off, is Brockton. Just right of its tallest spire is the Standish Monument, on Captain's Hill in Duxbury, 28 1-2 miles. The large pond, two miles S. E., is Massapoag. Nearly over its left end is East Bridgewater, fifteen miles. About over its centre is Bridgewater, fifteen miles, and over its right end Middleboro, twen-

ty-two miles. Due South (S. 0° 20' W.) is Great Meadow Hill in Rehoboth, seventeen miles, crowned by a group of trees. Nearly under its right base is Mansfield, seven miles. About S. S. W. are the two spires of Foxboro, 4 1-2 miles. Half way between Great Meadow and Foxboro, appears a very small sharp peak, Oak Hill, in Attleboro, fifteen miles, and nearer at its right, the village of East Attleboro. Turning nearly to W. S. W. we see, three miles off, South Walpole with its short white steeple. Nearly over its left is the summit of Woonsocket Hill in Rhode Island, twenty miles. To the right of W. S. W. is the tall cupola of Dean Academy in Franklin, with steeples at its right.

"Turning nearly to W. N. W. we see the low-pointed ridge of Asnybumskit Hill, in Paxton, 1407 feet, thirty-seven miles; and more toward N. W. the very conspicuous Wachusett Mountain in Princeton, of the same range, 2018 feet, forty-three miles, is seen over Walpole village, 2 1-2 miles off. Midway between Asnybumskit and Wachusett is seen Rice Hill in Rutland, forty-one miles, a little left of which are three steeples, nearly in line, one above the other, viz: Hopkinton, seventeen miles, Shrewsbury, twenty-eight miles, and Rutland, forty-two miles. Somewhat to the right of Wachusett is the low ridge of Monoosnook Hill in Leominster, forty-one miles, seen over Medfield village 6 1-2 miles off. Still to the right is Grand Monadnock Mountain, in Jaffrey, N. H., sixty-eight miles, 3170 feet high, a sharp peak falling off very

gradually to the right. Between Monoosnock and Monadnock, just N. W., is Sherborn church, eleven miles. Against the right flank of Monadnock is the round knob of Watatick Mountain, in Ashburnham, Mass., 1847 feet, fifty-two miles a peak of the Wachusett range. This range we follow to the right of New Hampshire, by Mt. Kidder in New Ipswich, Spofford and Temple Mountains in Temple, and the noticeable twin summits of Pack Monadnock, near Peterboro'. The latter are about 2280 feet high, and sixty-two miles distant. Between Watatick and Kidder, the near round hill, nineteen miles off, is Nobscot, in Framingham, 602 feet.

“To the right of the Pack Monadnocks, eight miles off, is a group of hills in Dover, through a gap in which we get a glimpse of Lyndeboro' Pinnacle, sixty-two miles off. Turning far toward the North we see Prospect Hill in Waltham, eighteen miles, with little Prospect on its left flank, and further left, the village of Lincoln, twenty-one miles. I have identified some prominent buildings in about fifty villages, some of them requiring the telescope. Many other villages have been observed but not yet fully identified. The spire at the right of Foxboro may prove to be in Pawtucket, R. I. The calculated bearing of Brown University at Providence, 22 1-2 miles, places it midway between the Foxboro steeples, but I have never been favored with a view of it. It is probably not visible.”

The air on the hill is very invigorating,

and persons with weak lungs enjoy it much. Invalids, by carrying a lunch and spending some hours on the hill, are often benefitted. I regret that there is no boarding place there. Perhaps some time there will be a sanitarium or hotel on the hill. It would be well patronized.

On your return, on Moose Hill Street, you will pass the barn of Henry L. de Bussigny, where are kept in summer some of the finest saddle horses in the country. His stable is worthy of a visit from all lovers of fine bred horses.

The poultry house that you pass on returning is over eight hundred feet long, and has a wing, not in sight of the road, four hundred and eighty feet long. It was intended for ten thousand fowl.

For a short drive, take Main Street to Foxboro, turn the first left through "Gun House Lane" then next left home. In "Gun House Lane" formerly stood the gun house in which was stored the cannon to protect the inhabitants from their enemies. Elm Lawn, near the corner of the lane, was formerly the Randall homestead, and here died not many years ago, "Boston Randall", a very aged negro, and probably the last slave owned in Massachusetts. He was brought from Africa and kept as a body servant, until he finally became a family pet. He refused his freedom and was kindly cared for by the family while he lived. He was buried, as was his master's family, in the Chestnut Tree cemetery.

Another short, pleasant drive is to the town farm; you will save opening gates

if you go past Sharon depot and take second right hand road.

For a very romantic drive, take Main Street and Walpole Street to Mr. Benjamin Rhoades' house, turn sharp to the left, and follow County Street until it comes to Main Street, near Paradise cranberry meadow. County Street is full of sharp pitches, and not much travelled, but it is decidedly wild and has a history. It is one of the oldest roads in Massachusetts, having been called "the path to Bristol." It was over this road Madame Knight rode on the first night of her famous journey to New York, and the "Wayman's Ordinary," where she spent the first night, stood near where the cranberry store-house now stands. Here Ebenezer Billings is supposed to have built his tavern about 1658, many years before there was a white person in what is now Canton.

For a variety of ferns, drive through the Pigeon Swamp road. Maiden hair ferns grow here. You will have a romantic drive to go past Leonard's mill, turning sharp to the left at the cemetery and taking the first right and then the next right. Near the house of J. M. Bullard, on this road, you get a splendid view and an assortment of ferns.

Drive to Wolomolpoag Pond, and turn to the left and the next left home. If you care for places of historic interest, when on this drive take the right at Mrs. T. E. Clark's, and go to Clapp's saw-mill. Here was the foundry, where, under General

ridley, was cast the first cannon ever made in the country.

Not far from Mrs. Clark's, King Philip and his warriors camped the night they burned Medfield, in 1676. They passed the "Wayman's Ordinary" just at dusk, but spared it because one of the chiefs said, "Billings is Indians' friend."

It is six miles to Foxboro and six to South Walpole. On the South Walpole road, Mr. Lyman Plympton has a cultivated cranberry bog and a cultivated white pine grove, both equal, if not superior, to any others in the State. To Walpole it is five miles, six to Norwood and three to Canton. At Canton go and see the large, solid stone viaduct, by which the railroad crosses the highway and Neponset River. It used to be considered one of the wonders of the age. Also call and see a model of the famous Strasburg clock at Hawes' jewelry store. It was made by Mr. Hawes and he kindly shows it to all who call.

To Dedham it is ten miles. Here on East Street is the old Fairbanks house, which has been occupied by the same family for two hundred and forty years. For twenty-five cents Miss Fairbanks will show you many curious relics and heirlooms of the family.

To Stoughton it is six miles and to North Easton it is seven. At the latter the Unitarian church, the other public buildings, and the magnificent grounds of F. L. Ames, which are open to the public, are worthy of a visit. To Easton Furnace, seven miles, is a pleasant drive,

and a little off the road in East Mansfield are Austin's poultry grounds. Here at times may be seen as many as five thousand geese fattening for the market, as well as immense quantities of hens, ducks and turkeys. Mr. Austin sometimes feeds sixty bushels of grain a day to his fowl. To East Foxboro is six miles. Much of the way this road runs beside the railroad track.

Lovers of wild flowers and ferns will find a great variety here. Those who delight to see farming operations will be interested in the market gardens and greenhouses on Sharon plain and the cranberry meadows farther west. The woods and ponds of Sharon furnish game for the hunter and the numerous ponds and brooks furnish fish for the angler and the ponds also furnish ample opportunities for boating and bathing. Besides numerous mill ponds in Sharon, there are two beautiful sheets of water, called Wolomolpoag and Massapoag. Though only one mile apart, they are at the head of different rivers; one flows to the west and the other to the east. Massapoag contains four hundred and sixty acres of water and is three hundred feet above sea level. There is a drive completely around it. Formerly the water flowed from this pond into both the Taunton and the Neponset rivers. The early settlers used to liken it to a leaky barrel, from which the water flowed in all directions.

Being at the summit of both rivers it was the boundary between the lands of the Narragansett and the Massachusetts

ndians, while Wolomolpoag flowed into the Taunton and belonged exclusively to King Philip's tribe. The name Wolomolpoag is Indian and signified pleasant water, or sweet water, and it was most truthfully named, being a beautiful sheet of water.

HOUSES, FARMS AND WOODLAND.

Within a reasonable walking distance of Sharon station are hundreds of acres of eligible building sites, which can be purchased at reasonable prices, and which must surely rise in value. Real estate here has never been boomed, neither has it ever been depressed, and sales under foreclosure of mortgage are almost unknown here.

Since the introduction of water in 1885, there has been a marked growth of the village and a gradual rise of improved property, which I have reason to believe will continue. Within a half hour's drive of the two railroad stations in Sharon, there are some farms to sell, much below their value, which if intelligently managed by one able and willing to work, would be sure to pay a handsome income. Farming in Sharon can be made unusually profitable, as the summer people furnish a new market for produce and the numerous manufacturing towns and cities in the vicinity take all the surplus at remunerative prices.

There are some large tracts of woodlands and unimproved lands for sale at great bargains and some of them are certain to become more valuable soon. Just

now I have two or three estates, which am forbidden to advertise, but which must be sold for spot cash, even if sold at sacrifice.

I have farms of all sizes and prices for sale, houses for sale and houses to let furnished and unfurnished. I also have various kinds of business for sale. As this book is only published once, or at the most twice a year, and as property in my hands is constantly changing, it is useless to catalogue it in this work and I do not attempt it, but if those in want of a house, a farm or any business will write and describe their wants, I will try to suit them. As I have lived in Sharon more than thirty years, the last nineteen of which have been devoted to the buying and selling of real estate on commission, and to making the town better known. I know all the property that is in the market, and the customers, and am generally enabled to serve my patrons in a satisfactory manner. In the spring I have a large variety of furnished houses to rent, the prices varying from \$150 or \$200 to \$1,000 for the season. I have also a few unfurnished houses and tenements to let, but the supply is limited, and does not equal the demand.

There is a large and sure opening in Sharon for hotels and boarding places, the demand being almost unlimited and far exceeding the supply. Persons of some means, who are adapted to the business, can find here an excellent opening. There is also a good opening for a good country tavern, where one can get enter-

tainment for man or beast for one meal or a month. Such a house, well kept, would receive a liberal patronage.

I am always pleased to show the town and the property in the market without expense to those seeking a home, whether they become customers or not. It is no trouble to show the property there is in the market. My carriage is at the Sharon station every pleasant day except Saturdays, on arrival of the 9.25 A. M. and the 2 P. M. trains from Boston. If you wish to come any other day or on any other train please notify me by mail, telegraph or telephone. I have a telephone in my house and parties can always talk direct with me from any telephone in Boston or on any of the suburban lines. My name and number will be found in the catalogue, which each telephone subscriber in Boston or any suburban town has.

HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES.

There is a large summer hotel by the shore of Massapoag, called the Massapoag Lake House, which will accommodate about one hundred and forty guests. Elm Lawn is a farm boarding house on the west shore of Massapoag. There are also four cottages of four rooms each, which are let in connection with the house. He can accommodate some forty. The Sharon also accommodates about forty. All these houses set good tables and have good accommodations for horses. There are also a number of houses where from two to a dozen boarders are taken at prices varying from five to ten or twelve dol-

lars a week, but the supply is far short of the demand and it is well to apply early for board.

I intend to keep thoroughly posted in regard to those who have vacant rooms, their location, prices, etc., and am always happy to give information and make suggestions to those seeking board, and am often enabled to save them time, trouble and money. If those seeking board will write, enclosing stamp, I will cheerfully furnish them any desired information. Please state what you require, how many rooms, whether there are children, and what price you expect to pay. "Reasonable prices", if from a stranger, conveys no information to me, since thirty dollars a week from some of my patrons would be reasonable, and others find it hard to pay five dollars. Generally good board cannot be obtained for less than seven dollars a week. This branch of my business is of no pecuniary profit to me, but it is my desire and for my interest to see people located in Sharon, to their own satisfaction. Good carriages, with careful drivers who know the boarding places will be furnished on application to me at not to exceed one dollar an hour. Come by the 9.25 A. M. or 2 P. M. train; if coming on any other train, give previous notice by mail, telegraph or telephone, and my carriage will be at the station. No charge for information or suggestions.

LOW TAXES.

The following is the copy of a circular

issued by Joel P. Hewins, Esq., Treasurer of Sharon:—

SHARON, MASS., 1885.

SIR:—

Many persons who pay taxes on a large amount of personal property in cities where the rate of taxation is high, are proposing to change their residence to some place where the burden of taxation is lighter. The attention of such is respectfully called to a few facts about Sharon. The present valuation of the town is about \$1,000,000, and the tax rate for all purposes is \$9.40 on \$1,000. Several wealthy people talk of changing their residence to Sharon, the coming season, and should enough do so to increase the valuation to another million,—and there is reason to hope such will be the case,—the tax rate will not exceed \$5.00 on \$1,000. If this rate is once established, enough more will no doubt be added from year to year to make the TAX RATE OF SHARON LOWER THAN IT IS IN ANY OTHER TOWN OR CITY IN THE STATE.

The present low tax rate has not been reached by niggardly appropriations, but by careful management and judicious expenditures of the money raised. There is no probability that the expenses of the town will be much increased for some time to come, as the town hall, school-houses and other public buildings are all new or in good repair, and amply sufficient for the needs of the town; the town debt is small and is being rapidly extinguished under the present rate of taxation; the

roads are in good repair, and there is an invested fund, the income of which is for the support of schools.

Sharon is very pleasantly situated on the Boston & Providence Railroad, 350 feet above tide water, on the highest land between the two cities. It is thirty-five minutes' ride from Boston, from which there are nine trains a day, including a late train for lectures and theatres, which with the telegraph and telephone, and five mails a day, give ample communication with all the world. Sharon has long been celebrated for its fine drives, lakes, streams, pine groves, and healthy air. Of late years it has become quite a resort for invalids and convalescents, eminent physicians having recommended it to their patients and pronounced it the *Healthiest Town in the State*. Chemical tests of the atmosphere have found in it a larger amount of ozone than has ever been found at any other place east of the Rocky Mountains, and to this fact is attributed the healthy and curative effects of the air of Sharon.

The markets of the town supply all that is needed in the line of groceries and provisions. There are four churches, yearly schools, and a well selected public library. In short, Sharon, from its accessibility to Boston and Providence, its churches, schools, public library, scenery, healthy air and Low Taxes has advantages as a suburban residence unequalled by any locality near Boston.

A pamphlet describing Sharon more fully will be sent on application.

Persons wishing further information will be waited upon at their residence or place of business if desired.

Address the TOWN TREASURER,
SHARON, MASS.

SHARON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

The object of this Association as set forth in its constitution is, "To improve and ornament the streets and public grounds of Sharon, by planting and cultivating trees, cleaning and repairing sidewalks, and doing such other acts as shall tend to improve the town."

Since its organization on the twenty-eighth of February, 1881, it has put street lights on the principal streets, has built a passable road to Moose Hill and erected an observatory on its summit, has placed a Howard clock in the tower of one of the churches, and has been the means of the chartering and formation of the Sharon Water Company and the introduction into the village of an abundance of pure water.

Very much remains to be done, and the work of the Association commends itself to absent friends of the town as well as all citizens.

The annual membership fee is one dollar; twenty-five dollars paid at one time makes one a life member. Contributions to the funds of the Association are respectfully solicited, and will be carefully and judiciously expended by the executive committee. Make checks payable to

C. A. HIXSON, Treasurer, or W. B. WICKES, President.

SHARON SPRING WATER.

For drinking and all culinary and domestic uses, our water is unequalled by few and unsurpassed by water from any other spring in the State.

We are prepared to furnish, at reasonable rates, power for running sewing machines, coffee grinders, ice cream freezers, churns, and other purposes where small power is needed.

SHARON WATER COMPANY,

By W. B. WICKES, Supt.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

W. B. Wickes,
General Business Agent

ESTABLISHED 1870,

SHARON, MASS.

REAL ESTATE

Sold, Leased and Cared For.

FARMS,

HOUSES,

WOODLAND,

and Unimproved Property For Sale.

Houses Furnished and Unfurnished To Let.

Boarding Places Supplied.

CONNECTED BY TELEPHONE.

MOOSE HILL PROPERTY.

Ten acres of Wood Land, overlooking hundreds of miles of territory and many villages will be sold for \$300. A little two and one-half acre place with an apology for a house, ought to bring \$350. The Dixey place of 30 acres, a good cottage house and a poor barn will be sold for \$2 700, on easy terms. There is a splendid lot of wood land on the place, and the views are magnificent. Near the above are several lots of Wood Land, for sale cheap, and at the foot of the Hill, on the edge of Beaver Meadow, are other lots of wood land for sale. Also some Trout Streams and Cranberry Bogs. Moose Hill is a very desirable location, and property there is sure to rise in value.

The Dixey farm on Moose Hill, has a good seven-room cottage house, a poor barn and 30 acres of good land, with plenty of wood, including a very nice grove. The situation is one of the pleasantest and healthiest in this beautiful town. The view is just splendid. Price \$2,500, on very easy terms. Mrs. Patten has only eight and one-half acres in her little farm, but it is all good land, finely situated on the borders of Massapoag, and is well stocked with fruit and shade trees. There is a square two-story house and a small, cheap barn, \$3,000.

SHARON VILLAGE PROPERTY.

For \$7,000 or less, I can sell a modern built, large 12-room house, plenty of land and shade, house built by the day, cemented cellar, hot and cold water, bath room, and all improvements. No pains or expense were spared in building, but circumstances compel the owner to sell at once.

For \$8,000, I will sell two good houses and a barn. Plenty of shade and fruit; one acre of land. Must be sold to some one at once.

For \$4,500, the C. D. Hixon house, right in the heart of the village. All modern improvements. Cheaper than cheap. The Butler house, 18 rooms, set tubs, gas, water closet, bath room, and all that can be desired. Elegant stable, three acres of land, stocked with fruit. Good drainage, splendid view. Cost nearly \$20,000, and I hope to get \$15,000 for it, but if I can't will sell for \$12,000. Come and see it.

The Tamblyn house and half acre of land. Has some splendid pine trees. The house is nearly new. Fine location. \$2,500.

Half a house on our best street. The other part is owned and occupied by nice people. Fruit and land enough for a garden, for \$900. This is a good place for two ladies or an old couple. On the same street is a double house, with four tenements, near pine wood. Price, \$3,000. You can let them for 12 per cent. on your money. It is a desirable neighborhood.

For \$4,000, I will sell the Lucas Johnson house, a stable and one acre of land, lots of fruit. It is a pretty place in the heart of the village. An old two-story house, and one acre of land, will be sold for \$2,500. The best business location in the village.

FARMS.

On the Bay Road I have several farms to sell. One is a small vegetable and milk farm; the milk route will go with it. Another is a nice cottage house and barn, and one acre of land. As good a neighborhood as there is the world. Nearer North Easton, is a cheap little farm, and another just off of the Bay Road, in Stoughton.

At Sharon Heights I have a neat cottage house and one acre of land. Half mile from the station I have a French-roof house and one acre of land for sale cheap. Near the station at Sharon Heights is a 30-acre farm, for \$1,500. There is a good barn but no house. Will sell most of the above with a very small amount down.

One of the best farms in Sharon for grass, poultry or vegetables. Will be sold with one or two houses as desired, and from 10 to 100 acres of land. Price from \$1,000 to \$3,500, according to what you take, but any or all of it at a big bargain. If you want a big stock farm with 140 acres of land, plenty of fruit and wood, a good old house, splendid barns, come and see me. On the edge of the village, I have a 60-acre farm, with a large modern house, suitable for a dude, and a good big barn.

SHARON VILLAGE FARMS.

The Johnson farm has buildings out of repair, but the land is finely situated to cut up into building lots, being high, dry, near station, and commanding a fine view. There is a demand for such lots.

A splendid small fruit farm, well stocked with a variety of small fruit and plums. Large house and barn; this is elegantly located near station, and will be sold at a bargain.

A good farm of sixty acres, right in Sharon village. Land will some day all be wanted for house lots. High, dry, healthy, fine scenery, and perfect drainage. Large two-story, square house, open fires and furnace, Sharon water, good barn. Will sell less land if desired. Near the above I have a 40-acre farm, land situated in same way, but the house is not quite so good. Both are good investments.

ELM LAWN.

This splendid farm boarding house is now offered for sale. There is 40 acres of good land, extending from Lake Massapoag to the railroad track near Sharon Heights station. A part of the land is covered with pine groves and a part of the remainder is stocked with small fruits and plums. There are three thousand raspberry and blackberry plants also strawberries, asparagus and rhubarb. The buildings consist of a large mansion house, of some twenty-five rooms, four cottages and a large barn. The house has been successfully run for several years as a summer boarding house, and can always be filled at good prices. It will be sold low to the right party and on easy terms. The houses are now fully furnished, and all the furniture, linen and crockery will be sold with it.

FARMS ON SHARON PLAIN.

By the borders of a beautiful pond, I have a good 70-acre farm, which I *must* sell to settle an estate. There is a good barn and an old but good two-story square house. The place is good enough for you when you get worth \$1,000,000, but I will sell it for \$4,000, on easy terms. Two places to settle an estate. one of 45 acres and one of thirty; both have good houses and barns, both are good market gardens or poultry or grass farms. One

has a cranberry bog. One of these will be sold with a small amount down. Near the above is a neat, productive 25-acre farm, with wood enough to most pay for it, neat cottage house of seven rooms, piazza and blinds, barn and four poultry houses. \$1,700, half cash or more.

On the shores of Massapoag, I will sell you a sixty-acre farm, for \$5,500. Plenty of fruit, large, old cottage house, large barn. Near the above but not bordering on the lake, is a good farm, with a new cottage house; will be sold cheap.

MILL AND FARMS.

If you want a 100-acre farm with saw and shingle mill, come and see the Cl pp farm. It is a lonesome place, but very pretty and romantic. I will sell it with a little money down or trade it. If you want a 120-acre farm with old fashioned buildings of not much account, but commanding a beautiful view and capable of being made an elegant place, come to Sharon and see me. I can sell a huge tract of building lots, cheap for cash. It is level, near station and well situated for any business, but you need money to develop it. I can sell you the best apple farm in Sharon, 70 acres of land, lots of wood, large barn, small house, splendid view and tony neighborhood. Owner wants all cash.

GREAT POULTRY FARM.

The Sharon Heights Poultry Farm, the largest poultry establishment in the State, is now offered for sale, because the owner has other business and can't attend to it. There is forty-five acres of land, well stocked with apples and plums, plenty of wood, a large cottage house in good repair, a small house for help, large barn, 1,300 feet of hen-houses, suitably divided. It is only one-half mile from the station and is in every respect admirably adapted to the poultry business. Will be sold for less than the cost of the buildings, on easy terms. I have some smaller "hen farms" to sell.

WOOD AND VACANT LANDS.

Some 300 acres of house lots, laying directly on the railroad, will be sold cheap to anyone having means to develop them. In the edge of Foxboro, I want to sell 40 acres of wood and pasture, to settle an estate. On the line of the Railroad I will sell fourteen acres of hard wood. It will be built on some day. On the shore of Massapoag, I can sell some nice unimproved land cheap. Part of it is covered with white pine. I have a small wood lot to sell on Main Street, near the village.

For \$1,000, I will sell you a beautiful lot of four acres. Come and see it.

Adjoining where Dr. Bowditch is building a sanitarium, I have a good wood lot, to sell cheap.

For \$300 an acre, I will sell you an 8-acre lot, near the depot. Just the thing to build on.

HOUSE LOTS AND WOODS.

If you will agree to build a nice house on it, I will sell you a splendid house lot on the "Ball Ground", the highest and best land in the village.

On Pleasant View, I have eight acres of house lots, to sell at a bargain. Also at the same plat, two eligible house lots, belonging to a Worcester man.

I will sell you 10 acres of wood, in "Cabbage Swamp", belonging to a Boston man, for less than it is worth.

In Canton, on the railroad and near station, I can sell you a big lot of land cheap. If you have got money and snap you can make a little fortune on it, for house lots.

In an adjoining town, I have for sale an elegant estate; has cost probably, nearly \$30,000. Would make a good place for a school, or some tony institution, or a gentleman's residence. What will you give for it?

TO LET.

A nice, fully furnished house of nine rooms, furnace heat, Sharon water, ample grounds, near pine grove. Will be let for the summer of 1889, or longer.

A furnished house, of eight rooms, and one of nine rooms, will be let furnished. Both have Sharon water and the grounds of both adjoin a pine grove.

By the Lake, I have the Octagon cottage of eight rooms, to let furnished. With the house is a garden, lawn, barn and boat.

I have some houses to let unfurnished at Sharon Heights, at the Knife Works, and three tenements in the village.

The Winship house, one of the largest and best houses in the village, is to let furnished or unfurnished.

The Choate house will be to let in the Spring. There are eight large rooms, heat by a furnace, a large stable and several acres of land, Sharon water. It will be let furnished or unfurnished for the summer or by the year. It is right in the village. The view from the house is splendid.

The Fuller farm, one of the best 60-acre farms in Sharon, will be let but is not for sale. There is a good two-story

house, large barn and henhouse. It is a very healthy, pleasant place,

On the edge of the village, 17 acres of land, some wood, two-story house, barn, hen-houses, apples, on the borders of a mill pond. \$2,500.

More than a mile from the station, is a good little farm, nice two-story house, barn and poultry house. Will keep two cows and a horse. A splendid chance to raise trout. \$3,000.

Near North Sharon schoolhouse is a good little farm, with house, barns and sheds, all are nice but need repairs. One mile from the station is a neat little farm, cottage house, small barn, and nice poultry house. Apples, peaches and grapes in abundance. \$1,500; only \$400 down.

Near Massapoag, is an 8-acre farm. A good cottage, no barn, for \$1,100.

FOR SALE.

To settle an estate, a fine grass and vegetable farm of 40 acres, neat cottage house, fair barn and splendid shade. Price \$2,000. It ought to bring more.

Near the above and belonging to the same estate is another farm about the same size. It ought to bring \$3,000, but will be sold for less.

In the village, a house of 13 rooms, piazza, blinds, shade, sets high and has perfect drainage, 50,000 feet of good land and plenty of apples and pears. Price \$3,500.

An 80-acre farm, land level, easily worked and free from stones, plenty of wood, large two-story, well kept square house, nice large barn. This is one of the prettiest places in Norfolk County for a gentleman's country seat, or is a productive farm for a laboring man. It belongs to two ladies who cannot work it and will sell very low, on easy terms. Price \$4,000.

Fourteen acres of woodland, directly on the line of the railroad, high, dry, suitable for building land and will some day be valuable. Price \$700.

In Canton, a nice, two-story house, barn and one acre of land, on easy terms.

On the shore of Massapoag, a 60-acre farm, a cottage house and large barn, \$5,500. Near the above is an 8-acre farm, \$1,100.

Near Sharon Centre, a fine 40-acre farm very nice 2-story house, large barn, a fine place, \$7,000.

A nice village farm, high, good location, 2-story house, barn, and good orchard, \$7,000.

In Sharon, an 80-acre farm on the shores of a fine lake. large two-story house and good barn. Near the above are 40 acres of pasture and woodland.

On the shore of Lake Massapoag, I can sell you an elegant house, with all modern improvements, a barn and fifteen acres of land. This is a place suitable for any gentleman. In the village is a modern built 13-room house, and one acre of land. Furnace heat; \$4,000. Near the Knife Works, I have two cheap houses. Will sell them separate or together. One is two-story. At Sharon Heights, I will sell you the Clarke estate, of over sixty acres of land, close to the station. There are five houses and a barn. Will sell a part or all. It is a good investment, being close to the station. Welch's Grove, a beautiful pine grove, with 10 1-2 acres of land, directly on the railroad, commanding a fine view. will be sold for \$1,200, and it is cheap.

SHEPARD CARPENTER,
SHARON,

ICE delivered as desired.

H. F. LEONARD, SHARON,

- COAL -

C. E. Howard, So. Sharon,
P. O. Address, East Foxboro.

FIRE WOOD PREPARED

for stove or fireplace. Delivered promptly
in any quantity desired.

FRED A. WHITE,

MOOSE HILL MILK.

EDWARD HAMPTON.

BARBER.

Shop over Blue Store. Maple Ave. Sharon.

LONG BROTHERS,

Sharon, keep in stock every article usu-
ally kept in a

COUNTRY STORE.

Permanent Residents, Cottagers

SUMMER RESIDENTS SUPPLIED

with goods equal in quality to any in Bos-
ton. A member of the firm will call for
orders.

GOODS DELIVERED PROMPTLY

MASSACHUSETTS Benefit - Association.

TREMONT TEMPLE, BOSTON, MASS

Largest Assessment Association in New England

WILLARD MARCY, President.

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W. G. CORTELL,

Sec'y.

Treas.

READ THE RECORD.

(DECEMBER 1888.)

20,000 Policies issued.

Over 15,500 Members.

\$100,000 received from each Mortuary
call.

\$250,000 in Reserve Fund.

5,500 Members in Boston and Vicinity.

Issues an Absolute Policy for a Definite
Amount.

\$2,500,000 paid in Death Losses.

The Largest Assessment Association in
New England.

Gives Policies from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Requires urine examination in every case.

Policies incontestable after five years.

Under the new, strict Massachusetts law,

Death and Expense Funds strictly separate.

All Policies Paid in full.

CALL OR SEND FOR CIRCULARS.

B. GANNETT,
Pond Street Stable.

Double & Single Carriages

with or without drivers furnished at
 short notice' also

**HACKS, BARGES AND PARTY
 WAGONS.**

The Foreman of this stable is a temperate
 experienced man, who will give the best
 of care to

BOARDING HORSES.

CARRIAGES SENT TO ANY TRAIN

when ordered by mail or telegraph. My
 stable is near the residence of W.B. Wickes
 and carriages may be ordered by tele-
 phone to him. Address

B. GANNETT, SHARON.

P. S.—Teams furnished from my farm
 for Moving Furniture, or any kind of
 Jobbing, Excavating, or Teaming.

MARKET!

V. W. BROOKS

makes a specialty of supplying

Summer Residents, Cottagers

as well as all others with

MEATS,

POULTRY,

GAME,

VEGETABLES,

CANNED GOODS,

BUTTER,

And all goods usually kept in a well
stocked market.

CORNER'S BLOCK, SHARON.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Do you want a farm to get a living on?

Do you want a farm for a plaything?

Do you want a cranberry meadow?

Do you want a poultry yard?

Do you want a wood lot?

Do you want a lot of vacant land?

Do you want a house for a home?

Do you want a house to let, as an investment?

Do you want to hire a house?

Do you want to sell a house or let one?

Do you want to sell a farm or some land?

Do you want a boarding place?

Do you want to take boarders?

Do you want to sell any kind of business?

Do you want to go into any kind of business or invest any money?

In short, do you wish to buy, sell or hire anything in Sharon or vicinity or want to get a home in Sharon?

Apply to W. B. WICKES, Sharon.
Telephone Connections.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?



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